

The Song of Solomon 1:5-2:17

Fawning, Fasting, and Fox Hunting

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

1. **Main Idea of the Passage:** The way that the husband in the Song of Solomon feels about his bride is the way that Jesus feels about us. This love of Jesus enables us to love our spouses and others with a self-giving and sacrificial love.
2. **Melodic Line of the Book:** God is love and The Song of Solomon sings of that love, revealed in human marriage, a gloriously-intimate bond between God and His people.

KEY WORDS/THEMES

1. **Beloved (*dod*), see 1:13, 14, 16; 2:3, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17** – beloved one, lover; a term of endearment ranging from friendship and familial affection to romantic love.
2. **Banner (*degel*), see 2:4** – “Whether in war or in peacetime the banner represented a form of communication. The raising of a banner or the posting of a signboard became, in a sense, ‘shorthand’ to announce or to proclaim a message. So when the beloved in the lyrics of the Song of Songs states, ‘His banner over me is love,’ she is saying that her lover has displayed his love for all to see.” (Martens, NIDOTTE)
3. **Fasting (theme), see 2:7, 17** – self-selecting out of a good thing for a time because the context is not right yet and/or so that your hunger for the created thing draws your affections ultimately to the Creator.
4. **Foxes (*šū-āl*), see 2:15** – the annoying, distracting, and even dangerous enemies of marriage, like foxes in a spring growth vineyard.

STRUCTURE/OUTLINE OF THE SERMON

- I. Introduction
- II. The Text
 - A. Fawning
 1. Appearances (1:5-7)
 2. ‘Baby, you look fine!’ (1:8-10)
 3. The power of being adored (1:12-2:6)
 4. Jesus take home
 - B. Fasting
 1. Fasting? Yes, fasting.
 2. Fasting defined
 3. Explanation
 4. So, how do you not stir up or awaken love?
 - C. Fox Hunting
 1. The love volleys continue (2:8-10)
 2. Images of maturity and readiness (2:12-13)
 3. But first there must be a fox hunt (2:15)
- III. Conclusion: Marriages in Crisis

GOSPEL CENTRALITY

The gospel takes the outward force of self-giving and sacrificial love and uses it to unite, to cause a counterintuitive force that causes a gravitational pull in toward the middle, which is Jesus. As a married couple are fused to Jesus, they are fused to each other.

KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN

- Is it easy or difficult for you to see and believe that God fawns over you and sings his love over you? What attitudes or past experiences affect your view of God's love and pleasure over you?
- Do you have regular and vulnerable conversations with others about what is going on in your heart? Concerning issues with anger, sexual desire, etc., that affect how you love others?
- What are some of the specific foxes in your heart that need to be addressed in your relationship with your spouse? With others?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

- Thank God that he proclaims that we are his beloved and sings his love over us.
- Pray that we would all see that Jesus loves us the way that the husband in the Song of Solomon loves his bride.
- Pray that we would respond in self-giving and sacrificial love to our spouses and others.
- Pray for your own marriage or the marriage of others in crisis: "Lord, we/they do not have the strength or will to heal this marriage. But you do. Heal our/their marriage – for the sake of [name of spouse or couple] and for the glory of Jesus."
- Pray for those among your family, friends, and community that have not put their trust in Jesus, that God would open their hearts to His love and that they would see that He is the lover of their soul.